

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Advisory Action and the interview conducted on January 17, 2008, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention.

Review of the subject application in view of the present amendment/remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner, Kevin Kerns, and Counsel for Applicants, Seongyoun Kang, discussed the following points with regard to claim 1:

First, the Advisory Action stated that the Applicants' Admitted Prior Art (hereinafter "AAPA") discloses "a rotary pipe shaft" as recited in claim 1. However, the AAPA only discloses a rotary shaft 301 and, therefore, the AAPA does not disclose "a rotary pipe shaft" or "a hollow section of the rotary pipe shaft" as recited in claim 1.

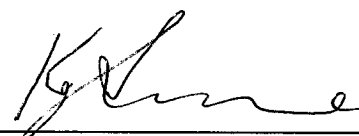
Second, the Advisory Action characterized the limitation "for holding the wire feed device" relating to "a rotary pipe shaft" as functional language that lacks patentably distinguishable structural features. Applicants pointed out that this limitation recites a structure as illustrated by a rotary pipe shaft 8 that holds a wire feed device 5 in FIG. 2 and amended the language to recite "configured to hold the wire feed device."

Third, Applicants further amended claim 1 by reciting that the connecting cable and/or the gas hose are "in operative connection with the wire feed device."

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-39700.

Respectfully submitted,
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